

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LIGHTHOUSE INTERNATIONAL

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the 100th anniversary of Lighthouse International. They are a leading organization that helps vision impaired individuals of all ages lead independent and productive lives.

Founded in 1905, Lighthouse International is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping prevent the disabling effects of impaired vision. Their rehabilitation program teaches the visually impaired new skills to cope with their vision loss and accomplish the goals they have set for themselves. Lighthouse International has served approximately 5,000 residents in the New York City metropolitan area.

Lighthouse International is New York State's foremost provider of comprehensive vision rehabilitation services for people of all ages. Their services include infant and toddler programs, a child development center, counseling, career services, low vision care, a music school, computer training, and instruction in independent living.

The Lighthouse collaborates with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB) to develop strategic plans that address and prevent vision impairment. They are a participant in the IAPB's "Vision 2020: The Right to Sight" campaign to eliminate avoidable blindness.

There are 180 million people with vision impairment worldwide. Lighthouse International deserves recognition for its tireless work on their behalf. Their programs give hope to people who had once lost their faith in accomplishing everyday activities.

NATIONAL SMALL BUSINESS WEEK

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Small Business Administration and celebrate and applaud the dedication of America's small business men and women during "National Small Business Week."

Small businesses are vital to our nation's economic growth and prosperity. America's 23 million small businesses represent more than 99 percent of all employers, account for more than half of all private sector workers and generate 3 out of every 4 new jobs. Additionally, small businesses account for one-third of U.S. exports and more than half of the gross domestic product. These people are the risk-takers, innovators and creators of tomorrow.

We've all heard that U.S. small businesses are the growth engine of our economy. As such, U.S. small technology businesses contribute significantly to our nation's economic

security. The technological innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses such as HGI Skydyne ensure that the military, aerospace and electronics industries have access to a constant flow of unique technologies to create world class products.

HGI Skydyne, a small business in my district, dates back to 1938 when it began manufacturing and selling lightweight, protective cases. Over the years it became a regular supplier of state-of-the-art fiberglass and composite-material cases. Among the company's many achievements were a patented composite-material wing for the Corsair airplane, the design and production of the transportation container for NASA's Lunar Landing Module, and the design and manufacture of the cases that brought moon rocks home to earth. Despite those successes, Skydyne's owners were ready to shut its doors in 2002. However, Hornet Group, Inc., a small, six-employee product development company decided to acquire Skydyne. Thanks to the Small Business Administration's 7(a) Loan Program, Hornet Group was able to keep Skydyne afloat and also enabled them to hire additional employees—now totaling 80. Under their collective stewardship, a second round of SBA and Key Bank financing was recently completed in order to accommodate the company's astronomical growth—sales orders that have grown to \$3 million from \$200,000 in just two years! Now that's a real small business success story and there are many others with similar accomplishments.

Entrepreneurship will continue to be the backbone of the American economy. Our future depends on the successful creation and expansion of small business. It is our job to increase our efforts on behalf of small business to ensure we have an environment where they can thrive. During "National Small Business Week" let us recognize and reflect on the hard work and dedication of all our small businesses who overcome financial and regulatory hurdles in order to help our economy run smoothly.

CHILD INTERSTATE ABORTION NOTIFICATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 27, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 748) to amend title 18, United States Code, to prevent the transportation of minors in circumvention of certain laws relating to abortion, and for other purposes:

Mr. McCAUL of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of H.R. 748, the Child Interstate Abortion Notification Act. I would like to thank Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for her leadership on this crucial issue. I am an original co-sponsor of this legislation and applaud the effort of those who brought this measure to the floor.

Today we have an opportunity to protect families, protect children, and protect the unborn. Let us make sure parents are given a chance to help their daughters during their most vulnerable times. Parents of minor children must be consulted if their child wants to get their ears pierced. The same standard should be applied when it comes to making life altering decisions. My home State of Texas has enacted a law guaranteeing the rights of parents in making important medical decisions for their children. Several states bordering Texas have no such statutes and many try to circumvent Texas law by driving across state lines, often against the will of the child. This bill will ensure that if a family is ever faced with having to make such a life altering decision it will be made by the family, and with the child's best interests at heart.

With passage of this legislation, Congress has an opportunity to stand with families during a difficult time. We also have a chance to protect the least among us, the unborn.

Let us be judged on how we answer this call. Let us pass this pro-family, pro-child, and pro-life legislation.

INTRODUCING A BILL TO ESTABLISH A COMMISSION TO MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE APPROPRIATE SIZE OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES AND THE METHOD BY WHICH MEMBERS ARE ELECTED

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 28, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that addresses an important issue I have pursued through several Congresses. This bill forms a commission to examine how we, the people, may be best served by our representational democracy. This commission would analyze the current size of the membership of the House of Representatives and examine alternatives to the current method of electing Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation encapsulates an important idea whose time has come. We are one of the most underrepresentative democracies in the world. As a country that holds itself up as the standard bearer for the democratic process, we must continue to ensure our democracy gives all citizens an equal and meaningful voice in our government.

As events of the past few years have made clear, we are facing an electoral crisis. Voter turnout continues to fall as people lose more and more faith in the democratic process. We owe it to our constituents and each American citizen to closely examine all available options for ensuring maximum participation in this great democracy of ours.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. As Members of Congress, we have all taken an oath to protect and defend the Constitution. Part of our duty is to

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